

On New Year's Morning

of New Year's morning with an idea. This was most unfortunate for John, but he. with no premonition of impending disaster, slept in the same early dawn the sleep of the man whose best giri lives in the suburbs and who doesn't reach his downy couch until 2 n. m.

Presently the front doorbell clanged. and John was roused from sweet dreams to be informed that he was warted at the nearest pay station to receive a long distanct message.

A long distance message! As he tumbled out of bed in the chill early morning and hastily got into a few clothes John reviewed in his mind every long distance relative he owned and each long distance investment he had made, prepared to learn of the death of all the former and of the total collapse of each of the latter.

At last, shivering with apprehension as well as with cold, he reached the pay station and sent a trembling "Hello!" through the phone.

The vocabulary of the party of the other part seemed to be limited to the one word "Hello!" and it was not until John's patience was almost exhausted that he recognized the voice as Mary's. He demanded in agitated tones,

"What's the matter?" "Letter?" said Mary. "I didn't get any letter. Did you write to me after you got home last night?"

"At 2 o'clock!" roared John. "Well, I guess not. I said matter. What-is the-matter? What brings you out so early in the morning?"

"I'm not out," laughed Mary. "Didn't you know we had had a telephone



"WHAT'S THE MATTER?" put is the house? It's right outside my door. It's so convenient." "Convenient!" growled John, his alarm giving way to rage.

"Yes," Mary prattied on: "I can call you up any time now-day or night." "What a delightful prospect!"

"Isn't it? And"- Mary's voice was suddenly cut off by a babel of "centrals," and John was about to hang up the receiver in disgust when it oc curred to him that possibly Mary did have something important to say, and so be waited until the line cleared and again said "Hello!"

"Helio!" answered Mary. "Oh, hel"-

"Why, John!"

-"lo, I mean. But, Mary, for heaven's sike, say what you've got to say and let me get back to bed!" "Why, John, you sound real cross,"

"That's strange too. Getting a man out of bed before daylight and making him wade through half a mile of snowdrifts is se conducive to angelic amiability."

"And new you're sarcastic! I-I think you're perfectly horrid?" "Did you call me up to tell me that? If so, yen could have done it cheaper by mail," said John coldly. Even the three distinct sobs that the receiver

conveyed to him did not soften his heart. He merely calculated that each of those sobs was probably costing his future father-in-law a quarter. "Well, Mary, if you really haven't anything to say"- John was prepar-

ing at last to hang up the receiver when Mary's voice again struggled "B-but I have!"

"Then, for heaven's sake, say it!" "It was only that-you're a mean, ungrateful thing-it was only that I wanted to wish you a h-happy New Year, but I won't do it now. I thought you'd be so pleased to know I had thought of you the first thing in the morning, and now I'll never"-

"Hello! Through, 740 River?" called Central. "Yes," said John emphatically.—New

York Press.

The Wassail Bowl. Some of the old English fashions of keeping the day have become obsokeeping the day have become obso-lete. Drinking from the "wassail bowl" was one of the popular ways of merry-making. The head of the house would assemble his family around a bowl of spiced ale called the wassail bowl, the ounces, the largest seen in Australia name being derived from the ancient Saxon phrase "wass hael," meaning "to your health." And after drinking to their long life and happiness the bowl was pused that all might share it.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

"ARMLESS AND LEGLESS."

Queer Toast at Queerer Dinner of New York Broker. It would be difficult to give a more

centric party than one held in New York last New Year's day. It was the idea of a wealthy broker of that city ard was held at his private residence, which was specially decorated for the

The guests were twelve men who had lost a leg and twelve women who had only one arm each. They were entertained to quite a magnificent repost, in the preparation of which particular regard was paid to the fact of the adies having but one hand with which to help themselves at table.

As they "paired" into the dining room the guests presented a curious yet pathetic spectacle, and after dinner each was invited to tell the company how he or she happened to lose his or her missing limb, the one who had lost it in the most curious manner being promised by the host a reward

This was won by a male guest, less and legless throughout the world" was drunk with enthusiasm before the company dispersed.-New York Times.

COFFIN ON THEIR TABLE.

Grewsome New Year's Dinner of Jovial Undertakers.

Three or four years ago there was an undertakers' New Year's dinner in a certain north of England town. The guests all drove to the rendezvous in mourning coaches and attired in full regulation somber clothes.

On entering the dining room they found it draped in black and decorated profusely with artificial and other Even the tablecloth was adorned with a broad black border, and in the center of the table there was a miniature coffin filled with choice flowers.

The guests, however, did not fail to enjoy themselves, for the dinner was a good one, well served and to every body's liking. When the chairman rose to propose the toast of the evening "Health to ourselves and prosperity to our business during the new year,' he was greeted with a storm of ap plause, albeit the latter part of the toast would not be received with much enthusiasm in an ordinary company,

During the evening appropriate songs such as "The Gravedigger," "Down Among the Dead Men." "I Took His Measure," and similar cheerful ditties, were excellently rendered .- Pearson's

When the Kniser Was Young. Emperor William II., when a young and lively roisterer, was fond of join ing in the New Year's sport of "knock ing hats" and desisted from it only after receiving a severe injury to his right hand. There was an old gentleman of the court who regularly every year lost one or more silk hats by walking abroad on New Year's day with the tabooed hendgear. Finally resolving to get even with his parseentors, he had a leather skullcap made studded with horseshoe nails that had been carefully sharpened for the occaston, and after adjusting his porcupine headplece he sallied forth into the street full of coufidence that the first person that spolled his hat would get the worst of the encounter. Along came the future emperor, with two or three been companions, and in a jiffy the princely flat descended or the offending tile. The consequences were dire, for twe or three of the nails went quite through the prince's hand, which was so badly torn that for awhile

"Honest Graft" In Henry's Day. The practice of sending presents on New Year's day has often been turned to advantage by people who were in a position to make it unpleasant for others. In the olden days it was customary for every tenant to make his landlord a New Year's gift and for every loyal subject of a baron, knight or king to testify his loyalty by sending his master a gift. This custom was regarded with such favor by the money loving Tudor sovereigns that they let their wish be distinctly understood that the presents should take the form of eash, and there is a curious manuscript memorandum by the Marquis of Bath. who held an official position in the court of Henry VIII. It contains a list of all those who made presents to the king on New Year's day of that year, together with the amount contributed by each, the sum total considerably exceeding £7,000.

there was fear he would lose it.-Phil-

adelphia Press.

Mahammed's New Year Motto. Every good act is charity. Giving water to the thirsty is charity. Removing stones and theras from the road is charity. Exhorting your fellow men to virtuous deeds is charity. Smilling in your brother's face is charity. Putting a wanderer in the right path is charity. A man's true wealth is the good be does in this world. When he dies mortals will ask, "What property bus he left behind him?" but angels will inquire, "What good deeds hast thou sent before thee?"-Moham-

New Year's on Skates. In Holland on New Year's the people may be seen skating along the canals in gay holiday attire. In Scandinavia the picture is similar, while in Russia. wrapped to the ears in furs, the people travel around in sledges to make their New Year calls, but not on the same day that we are making ours, for their Jan. 1 fells twelve days earlier, Russia being the only Christian country where the Julian calendar is still used. -Chicago Tribune.

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8:40 a. m., daily Byrd st. Tarough. ocal stops. 12:05 noon, week days. Byrd st. Through. 4:00 p. m., week days. Byrd st. Fredericks urg accommodation.
5:05 p. m. daily, Main st. Through.
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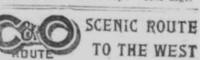
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